SPAIN'S EXTREMIST PRESS

ANNCR:

IN THE OPENNESS OF POST-FRANCO SPAIN, THE COUNTRY'S FXTREMIST UNDERGROUND POLITICAL PRESS IS MAKING UNDISGUISED APPEALS FOR VIOLENCE. HARRY DEBELIUS HAS THIS BACKGROUND REPORT FROM MADRID. VOICE:

ONE UNDERGROUND PUBLICATION WHICH SEEMS TO CIRCULATE WITH CONSIDERABLE EASE HERE IN MADRID IS CALLED "GAZETA ROJA" (RED GAZETTE). THE MAIN HEADLINE ON A RECENT ISSUE SAYS "SUPPORT ARMED STRUGGLE". THAT'S FOLLOWED BY AN ARTICLE PRAISING THE GRISLY WORK OF GROUPS CALLED GRAPO AND ETA. THOSE ARE EXTREMIST ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE RECENT DEEDS INCLUDE THE ASSASSINATION OF SPAIN'S DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF PRISONS OUTSIDE HIS MADRID HOME, AS WELL AS NUMEROUS FATAL BOMB AND MACHINE GUN ATTACKS IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY.

THE PRESS PANORAMA IN THIS PERIOD OF TRANSITION FROM
DICTATORSHIP TO DEMOCRACY HERE IN SPAIN IS NOT ONLY CHARACTERIZED
BY THE NAKED TRUTH OFTEN IN THE FORM OF FULL-COLOR PHOTOS OF BARE
BEAUTIES IN MAGAZINES. IT IS ALSO CHARACTERIZED BY A RASH OF
POLITICAL JOURNALS-- SOME OF THEM PROMOTING MUCH UGLIER CONCEPTS.
"GAZETA ROJA" IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE LATTER. IT'S THE VOICE OF THE
SO-CALLED RECONSTITUTED SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY, A CLANDESTINE
ORGANIZATION -- NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH THE SPANISH COMMUNIST
PARTY, WHICH IS LEGAL AND IS REPRESENTED IN THE SPANISH PARLIAMENT.

THE RECONSITUTED SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY IS THE POLITICAL WING OF THE TERRORIST MOVEMENT KNOWN AS GRAPO AND IS A KIND OF FIRST COUSIN OF THE RED BRIGADES OF ITALY.

WHILE "GAZETA ROJA" CONCENTRATES ON SPAIN FOR THE MOST PART,
IT ALSO REGULARLY EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR FAR-LEFT REVOLUTIONARIES
IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. COMMENTING ON THE KIDNAPPING OF
ITALIAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADER ALDO MORO, "GAZETA ROJA" SAID,
"IT IS A DUTY TO DEFEND THIS ACTION AS WELL AS THE ARMED ORGANIZATION WHICH CARRIED IT OUT."

THE RIGHT-WING PRESS INCLUDES A NUMBER OF LONG-ESTABLISHED CONSERVATIVE PUBLICATIONS SUCH AS THE MADRID MONARCHIST DAILY "A.B.C." BUT SOME HAVE BECOME EVEN MORE REACTIONARY THAN THEY WERE IN GENERAL FRANCO'S DAYS. SUCH IS THE CASE OF EL ALCAZAR" THE MADRID EVENING NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED BY THE LATE GENERALISSIMO'S WAR VETERANS CONFEDERATION. ANOTHER IS "FUERZA NUEVA", THE WEEKLY MAGAZINE OF THE FASCIST PARTY OF THE SAME NAME. BUT THERE ARE REALLY NO ILLEGAL RIGHT-WING PUBLICATIONS APPFARING WITH ANY REGULARITY HERE.

THE EVENING NEWSPAPER "EL ALCAZAR" DEDICATES SPACE ALMOST DAILY
TO ACCUSATIONS OF TREASON AGAINST THE PRIME MINISTER, ADOLFO SUAREZ,
AND THOSE WHO SURROUND HIM. "FUERZA NUEVA," THE RIGHT-WING MAGAZINE,
NEVER LETS AN ISSUE GO BY WITHOUT COMPLAINING ABOUT THE LEFT. IT
CONSISTENTLY ARGUES THAT ANOTHER UPRISING LIKE THE ONE WHICH
BROUGHT GENERAL FRANCO TO POWER IS MORE NECESSARY EVERYDAY. (OPT)
AN EDITORIAL IN LARGE BOLD TYPE IN A RECENT ISSUE OF "FUERZA NUEVA"
SAYS," WHEN THE AUTHORITIES DO NOT REPRESS VIOLENCE, IT MUST BE
ANSWERED WITH THE KIND OF VIOLENCE WHICH IS GENERATED BY A FEELING
OF LEGITIMATE DEFENSE AND BY THE NATURAL LAW WHICH EVEN THE CHURCH
RECOGNIZES." (END OPT)

IN THIS UNIQUE EVOLUTION WHICH SPAIN IS UNDERGOING, "EL ALCAZAR HAS CEASED TO BE THE VOICE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT AND HAS BECOME THE VOICE OF THE RIGHT-WING OPPOSITION. ITS CIRCULATION HAS RISEN

FROM A LOW OF A FEW THOUSAND IN THE LAST DAYS OF FRANCO TO MORE
THAN A HUNDRED THOUSAND TODAY. MODERATES ARE CAUGHT IN THE
CROSSFIRE IN THIS WAR OF WORDS BETWEEN THE ULTRA-RIGHT AND THE
ULTRA-LEFT. BUT LESS BLOODTHIRSTY SPANIARDS—AND THEY ARE THE
GREAT MAJORITY—CAN TAKE CONSOLATION FROM THE FACT THAT THEY ARE
SHIELDED FROM THE CROSSFIRE TO A GREAT EXTENT BY A GROWING DEGREE
OF OBJECTIVITY ON THE PART OF SPANISH NEWS MEDIA IN GENERAL.

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